



**GTCA Board Meeting Minutes – Oct. 12, 2023**  
**Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Saanich Neighbourhood Place**

Present : Vera, Meghan, Nicole, Paul, Richard, Brandon, Phil, Chris K., Gabe, Maurizio  
Paul, Nicole, Jennifer

Agenda approval: Motion to accept from Paul, seconded by Nicole

Minutes from 14 September meeting were approved: Motion to accept from Paul, seconded by Nicole.

**Number 11 Bus discussion:**

The board accepted the background briefing and agreed with the actions taken so far and the need to go ahead with the public meeting planned for 24 October and the presentation to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission on 7 November. It was also agreed that both events need to be publicized and that we should seek to mobilize a significant crowd for the public meeting, which will be held at the Victoria Scottish Community/Craigflower Center at the junction of Admirals Road and Old Island Highway at 7 pm on 24 October. Brandon will handle publicity for this event, but all directors are requested to spread the word.

**Communications:**

Brandon has sent 468 emails over past 28 days, most pertaining to the #11 bus saga. Mailchimp, formatted emails. He briefed the board of his intention to:

- Create a blog to build our on-line presence. He reported that we reached 8,000 people on Facebook about the bus issue,
- Communications strategy will include focus on fun and entertainment as well as news about specific issues – e.g., pumpkin parade,
- He will create posters for the Bus meeting this weekend, volunteers will be needed to place them.
- There is a need make it possible to access the newsletter online without having to join the GTCA.
- Discussion of the use of Google Drive for all GTCA minutes. Brandon to follow up. Website is public but a Google Drive would permit directors to input their activities directly.

Chris Kask briefed the board about his ongoing efforts to update distribution lists for our newsletters. When finished, it will include Google maps with colour indicated zones and routes. This will make the distribution plan visible to all of us and will provide back up for zone captains.

**Newsletter:** Celia and John (guests) proposed to create an Audio version of our newsletter using a simultaneous audio file that could be placed on our webpage. It would need to be recorded but does not need to be a podcast. The proposal was agreed without a motion or vote as there is no cost and Celia and John volunteered to do most of the work. Brandon, Gabe and Vera to follow up.

John (guest) advised that there is a free Google ad grant up to 10,000\$ available to non-profits – apply to TechSoup. Brandon/Michael for follow up.

### **WG reports:**

#### **AG, Culture & Celebration**

Exploring identity event, 15 October at Cedar Shores from 2-4pm – Chris B and Reb are organizing.

Pumpkin Parade – call for volunteers, 1 November, Reb is organizing.

Christmas market at Tillicum Elementary on November 18, Reb calling for volunteers.

#### **Food Resilience**

The WG lost one member, Gabe is trying to collect garden surpluses and trying to figure out a system for collecting and distributing it to SNP, Friendship centre and others. John (guest) suggested “Backyard bounty”. Gabe to follow up.

#### **Land Use**

The state of derelict housing belonging to Ironclad Developments on Tillicum and Albina was discussed at length. Ironclad and Saanich Bylaw reacted quickly to our letters. Fencing is up around 10 abandoned houses, 4 are still occupied. Vera gave a detailed recap of past issues with development applications for that parcel. Some work has been done to render the site safe but needs to be monitored. Phil and Vera to follow up with Saanich and Ironclad.

December meeting: Vera will host.

**Adjournment:** 8:45 pm